

REMARKS

Claims 1, 24, 37, 48, 54, 57, and 58 have been amended. Claims 61-64 have been added. Claims 1-8 and 10-64 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and forwarding of the application onto issuance.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-8, 10-19, 24-28, 30-31, 37-43, 48-49, and 54-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,295,261 to Simonetti.

Claims 20-23, 29, 32-36, 44-47, and 50-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonetti in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,601 to Papierniak et al. (hereinafter "Paperniak").

Before discussing the specific amendments that have been made, the following discussion of Simonetti is provided to assist the Office in appreciating patentable distinctions between the Applicant's claimed embodiments and Simonetti.

The Simonetti Reference

Simonetti discloses a database structure in which the fields of each database record are divided into two classes – navigational and information data. The data in the navigational fields is stored in a topological map which may be viewed as a tree structure or the merger of two or more tree structures. The informational data is stored in a conventional relational database.

1 Simonetti's system can best be appreciated from its Figs. 2A, 2B, and 2C.
2 Simonetti's database includes two types of data which are stored and searched in
3 different manners. The first type of data is navigational data and comprises the
4 hierarchically organized data. The navigational data is stored in one or more tree
5 structures. The remaining data is so-called informational data. The informational
6 data is stored in a relational type database.

7 Fig. 2 illustrates the conversion of a conventional database 10 (Fig. 1A)
8 into a database according to Simonetti's disclosure. The hierarchical data is
9 located in columns 31-33 as shown in Fig. 2(A). The informational data columns
10 are shown at 34.

11 The database is then split into two tables 41 and 42 as shown in Fig. 2(B).
12 Table 41 contains the navigational data and table 42 contains the informational
13 data. An additional field is added to each record in each table. This field is shown
14 in columns 43 and 44. A unique identifier is assigned to each record in the
15 database. The value of this identifier is placed in these additional fields. Hence,
16 column 43 is identical to column 44. This unique identifier provides a means for
17 identifying the informational data record in table 42 that is associated with each
18 record in navigational table 41.

19 The final step of converting the database consists of replacing table 41 by a
20 tree structure 50 as shown in Fig. 2(C). The nodes in tree structure 50 are divided
21 into sets shown at 51-54. Each set of nodes corresponds to a column in table 41.
22 The nodes in set 51 correspond to the state, those in set 52 correspond to the city,
23 those in set 53 correspond to the street address, and *those in set 54 correspond to*
24 *the unique identifier defined for each record in the original database.* Each
25 node in a given set is linked to a node in a set one level higher up in the hierarchy.

1 For example, by traversing the tree from any given city node to the state node to
2 which it is linked, one may ascertain the state in which the city is located.

3 Tree structure 50 may be used to select all informational data records
4 corresponding to a particular query stated in terms of the navigational data. For
5 example, to find all records in which the customer was located in a given city, tree
6 structure 50 is accessed at the city level and the node corresponding to the city in
7 question found. *The node is then traced via its links to the unique identifier at*
8 *level 54.* The unique identifiers are then used to access the informational data in
9 table 42.

10 That is, Simonetti's hierarchical tree has only one level (level 54) which
11 contains a unique identifier. In order to ascertain the unique identifier, one starts
12 at an upstream node (such as one at the city or state level) and traverses down to
13 the very bottom of the tree where the unique identifier is located. Individual nodes
14 in Simonetti's tree, other than those nodes at the very bottom of the tree, are likely
15 associated with multiple different unique identifiers. For example, each of the
16 nodes at level 53 is associated with multiple different unique identifiers from level
17 54. Each of the nodes at level 52 is associated with even more unique identifiers.

18 19 The Claimed Subject Matter

20 Applicant's claimed embodiments are directed to systems and methods that
21 are different in purpose from Simonetti's. The claims have been amended to
22 clarify their subject matter.

23 **Claim 1** has been amended and recites a system for determining context.
24 The recited system comprises one or more computer-readable media and a
25 hierarchical tree structure resident on the media. The tree structure is recited to

1 comprise multiple nodes each of which represent geographical divisions of the
2 Earth. The individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique
3 to the node. The EIDs serve as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to
4 goods or services associated with an individual node. This claim has been
5 amended to recite that the *multiple nodes comprise parent and children nodes*
6 *and that at least some of the parent nodes and their associated children nodes*
7 *have EIDs that are unique for the associated node.* Simonetti neither discloses
8 nor suggests any such subject matter. Rather, Simonetti teaches directly away
9 from such subject matter by specifically teaching that only its lowest tree level has
10 nodes with an identifier. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

11 **Claims 2-8, and 10-23** depend from claim 1 and are allowable as
12 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their
13 own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 1, are
14 neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in
15 combination with one another. Given the allowability of these claims, the
16 rejection of claims 20-23 over the combination with Papierniak is not seen to add
17 anything of significance.

18 **Claim 24** has been amended and recites a system for determining context.
19 The recited system comprises one or more computer-readable media, a first
20 hierarchical tree structure having multiple nodes associated with a first context,
21 and at least one second hierarchical tree structure having multiple nodes associated
22 with a second context. Further, at least one node from the second hierarchical tree
23 structure is recited to be linked with one node on the first hierarchical tree
24 structure by a link that is configured to enable a complete context to be derived
25 from the first and second contexts. The claim further recites that individual nodes

1 have unique IDs that can serve as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to
2 goods or services. This claim has been amended to recite that the *multiple nodes*
3 *comprise parent and children nodes, and that at least some of the parent nodes*
4 *and their associated children nodes have IDs that are unique for the associated*
5 *node*. Simonetti neither discloses nor suggests any such subject matter. Rather,
6 Simonetti teaches directly away from such subject matter by specifically teaching
7 that only its lowest tree level has nodes with an identifier. Accordingly, this claim
8 is allowable.

9 **Claims 25-36** depend from claim 24 and are allowable as depending from
10 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
11 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 24, are neither disclosed
12 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
13 another. In addition, given the allowability of these claims, the rejection of claims
14 29 and 32-36 over the combination with Papierniak is not seen to add anything of
15 significance.

16 **Claim 37** has been amended and recites a method of determining context
17 and comprises the acts of accessing first and one or more second hierarchical tree
18 structures that are resident on one or more computer-readable media, each tree
19 structure having multiple nodes, the nodes of the first hierarchical tree structure
20 being associated with a first context, the nodes of the one or more second
21 hierarchical tree structures being associated with a second context. Additionally,
22 the recited acts comprise traversing multiple nodes of at least one of the tree
23 structures to derive a context. In addition, the claim recites that individual nodes
24 have unique IDs that can serve as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to
25 goods or services. This claim has been amended to recite that the *multiple nodes*

1 *comprise parent and children nodes, and that at least some of the parent nodes*
2 *and their associated children nodes have IDs that are unique for the associated*
3 *node.* Simonetti neither discloses nor suggests any such subject matter. Rather,
4 Simonetti teaches directly away from such subject matter by specifically teaching
5 that only its lowest tree level has nodes with an identifier. Accordingly, this claim
6 is allowable.

7 **Claims 38-47** depend from claim 37 and are allowable as depending from
8 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
9 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 37, are neither disclosed
10 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
11 another. In addition, given the allowability of these claims, the rejection of claims
12 44-47 over the combination with Papierniak is not seen to add anything of
13 significance.

14 **Claim 48** is directed to a computer-readable medium having instructions
15 that cause a computing device to perform as recited. This claim has been amended
16 to clarify that the *multiple nodes comprise parent and children nodes, and that at*
17 *least some of the parent nodes and their associated children nodes have IDs that*
18 *are unique for the associated node.* Simonetti neither discloses nor suggests any
19 such subject matter. Rather, Simonetti teaches directly away from such subject
20 matter by specifically teaching that only its lowest tree level has nodes with an
21 identifier. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

22 **Claims 49-53** depend from claim 48 and are allowable as depending from
23 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
24 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 48, are neither disclosed
25 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one

1 another. In addition, given the allowability of these claims, the rejection of claims
2 50-53 over the combination with Papierniak is not seen to add anything of
3 significance.

4 **Claim 54** recites a method of locating goods or services and has been
5 amended to recite that the *multiple nodes comprise parent and children nodes,*
6 *and that at least some of the parent nodes and their associated children nodes*
7 *have IDs that are unique for the associated node.* Simonetti neither discloses nor
8 suggests any such subject matter. Rather, Simonetti teaches directly away from
9 such subject matter by specifically teaching that only its lowest tree level has
10 nodes with an identifier. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

11 **Claims 55-56** depend from claim 54 and are allowable as depending from
12 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
13 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 54, are neither disclosed
14 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
15 another.

16 **Claim 57** is a computer-readable medium claim and has been amended so
17 that it is of comparable scope to claim 54. Hence, for all of the reasons set forth
18 with respect to claim 54 being allowable, this claim is allowable.

19 **Claim 58** recites a method of building context-aware data structures and
20 recites acts comprising receiving input from a source that specifies information
21 pertaining to physical and/or logical entities and processing the information to
22 define a hierarchical tree structure having a context, the tree structure comprising
23 multiple nodes each of which represent a separate physical or logical entity. This
24 claim has been amended to clarify that the *multiple nodes comprise parent and*
25 *children nodes, and that at least some of the parent nodes and their associated*

1 *children nodes have IDs that are unique for the associated node.* Simonetti
2 neither discloses nor suggests any such subject matter. Rather, Simonetti teaches
3 directly away from such subject matter by specifically teaching that only its lowest
4 tree level has nodes with an identifier. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

5 **Claims 59-60** depend from claim 58 and are allowable as depending from
6 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
7 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 58, are neither disclosed
8 nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one
9 another.

10 11 **New Claims**

12 Claims 61-64 have been added and are allowable over the cited references.

13 For example, **claim 61** recites a system for determining context comprising:

- 14 • one or more computer-readable media; and
- 15 • a hierarchical tree structure resident on the media and
16 comprising multiple nodes each of which represent
17 geographical divisions of the Earth, individual nodes
18 comprising an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the
19 node, EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be
20 assigned to goods or services associated with an individual
21 node, *said multiple nodes comprising parent and children
22 nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated
23 children nodes having EIDs that are unique for the
24 associated node;*
- 25 • wherein at least some of the nodes comprise a node selected
from a group of nodes comprising: political entities, natural
entities, infrastructure entities, and public places.

23 Neither Simonetti nor any of the references disclose or suggest any such
24 subject matter. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

1 **Claim 62** recites a system for determining context comprising:

- 2 one or more computer-readable media;
- 3 • a first hierarchical tree structure having multiple nodes
 - 4 associated with a first context;
 - 5 • at least one second hierarchical tree structure having multiple
 - 6 nodes associated with a second context; and
 - 7 • at least one node from the at least one second hierarchical tree
 - 8 structure being linked with one node on the first hierarchical
 - 9 tree structure by a link that is configured to enable a complete
 - 10 context to be derived from the first and second contexts,
 - 11 individual nodes having unique IDs that can serve as a basis
 - 12 by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services,
 - 13 • *said multiple nodes comprising parent and children nodes,*
 - 14 *at least some of the parent nodes and their associated*
 - 15 *children nodes having IDs that are unique for the*
 - 16 *associated node;*
 - 17 • wherein the nodes of the first hierarchical tree structure
 - 18 comprise geographical divisions of the Earth;
 - 19 • wherein the first and the at least one second hierarchical tree
 - 20 structures comprise a plurality of attributes, one of which
 - 21 comprising information that pertains to the tree with which
 - 22 the node is associated.

23 Neither Simonetti nor any of the references disclose or suggest any such
24 subject matter. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

25 **Claim 63** recites a computer-implemented method of determining context
comprising:

- accessing first and one or more second hierarchical tree structures that are resident on one or more computer-readable media, each tree structure having multiple nodes, the nodes of the first hierarchical tree structure being associated with a first context, the nodes of the one or more second hierarchical tree structures being associated with a second context; and traversing multiple nodes of at least one of the tree structures to derive a context, individual nodes having unique IDs that

1 can serve as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to
2 goods or services, *said multiple nodes comprising parent*
3 *and children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and*
4 *their associated children nodes having IDs that are unique*
5 *for the associated node;*

- wherein the nodes of the first hierarchical tree comprise geographical divisions of the Earth; and
- wherein the traversing comprises traversing at least one node on each tree to derive the context.

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7 Neither Simonetti nor any of the references disclose or suggest any such
8 subject matter. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

9 **Claim 64** recites one or more computer-readable media having computer-
10 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a handheld, mobile
11 computing device, cause the computing device to:

- access first and second hierarchical tree structures, each tree structure having multiple nodes, the nodes of the first hierarchical tree structure being associated with a first location context, the nodes of the second hierarchical tree structure being associated with a second location context, at least one node of the second hierarchical tree structure being linked with a node of the first hierarchical tree structure; and
- traverse at least one node of each tree structure to derive a location context, at least one node in a traversal path that leads to a root node of the second hierarchical tree structure being linked with a node of the first hierarchical tree structure, individual nodes having unique IDs that can serve as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services, *said multiple nodes comprising parent and children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated children nodes having IDs that are unique for the associated node.*

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24 Neither Simonetti nor any of the references disclose or suggest any such
25 subject matter. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

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2 **Conclusion**

3 All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully
4 requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office's next
5 anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability,
6 Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an
7 interview.
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Version of the Claims as Amended with Markups

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3 1. (Twice Amended) A system for determining context comprising:
4 one or more computer-readable media; and
5 a hierarchical tree structure resident on the media and comprising multiple
6 nodes each of which represent geographical divisions of the Earth, individual
7 nodes comprising an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, EIDs
8 serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services
9 associated with an individual node, said multiple nodes comprising parent and
10 children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated children
11 nodes having EIDs that are unique for the associated node.
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14 24. (Twice Amended) A system for determining context comprising:
15 one or more computer-readable media;
16 a first hierarchical tree structure having multiple nodes associated with a
17 first context;
18 at least one second hierarchical tree structure having multiple nodes
19 associated with a second context; and
20 at least one node from the at least one second hierarchical tree structure
21 being linked with one node on the first hierarchical tree structure by a link that is
22 configured to enable a complete context to be derived from the first and second
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1 contexts, individual nodes having unique IDs that can serve as a basis by which
2 attributes can be assigned to goods or services,

3 said multiple nodes comprising parent and children nodes, at least some of
4 the parent nodes and their associated children nodes having IDs that are unique for
5 the associated node.

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7 37. (Twice Amended) A computer-implemented method of determining
8 context comprising:

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10 accessing first and one or more second hierarchical tree structures that are
11 resident on one or more computer-readable media, each tree structure having
12 multiple nodes, the nodes of the first hierarchical tree structure being associated
13 with a first context, the nodes of the one or more second hierarchical tree
14 structures being associated with a second context; and

15 traversing multiple nodes of at least one of the tree structures to derive a
16 context, individual nodes having unique IDs that can serve as a basis by which
17 attributes can be assigned to goods or services, said multiple nodes comprising
18 parent and children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated
19 children nodes having IDs that are unique for the associated node.

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22 48. (Twice Amended) One or more computer-readable media having
23 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computing
24 device, cause the computing device to:
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1 access first and second hierarchical tree structures, each tree structure
2 having multiple nodes, the nodes of the first hierarchical tree structure being
3 associated with a first location context, the nodes of the second hierarchical tree
4 structure being associated with a second location context, at least one node of the
5 second hierarchical tree structure being linked with a node of the first hierarchical
6 tree structure; and

7 traverse at least one node of each tree structure to derive a location context,
8 at least one node in a traversal path that leads to a root node of the second
9 hierarchical tree structure being linked with a node of the first hierarchical tree
10 structure, individual nodes having unique IDs that can serve as a basis by which
11 attributes can be assigned to goods or services, said multiple nodes comprising
12 parent and children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated
13 children nodes having IDs that are unique for the associated node.

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17 **54.** (Amended) A computer-implemented method of locating goods or
18 services comprising:

19 defining a hierarchical tree structure comprising multiple nodes that each
20 can define a physical or logical entity, said multiple nodes comprising parent and
21 children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated children
22 nodes having IDs that are unique for the associated node;

23 associating one or more goods or services with one or more of the nodes;
24 and
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traversing one or more of the multiple nodes to discover a good or service.

57. (Amended) One or more computer-readable having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to:

define a hierarchical tree structure comprising multiple nodes that each can define a physical or logical entity, said multiple nodes comprising parent and children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated children nodes having IDs that are unique for the associated node;

associate one or more goods or services with one or more of the nodes; and
traverse one or more of the multiple nodes to discover a good or service.

58. (Amended) A computer-implemented method of building context-aware data structures comprising:

receiving input from a source that specifies information pertaining to physical and/or logical entities;

processing the information to define a hierarchical tree structure having a context, the tree structure comprising multiple nodes each of which represent a separate physical or logical entity, said multiple nodes comprising parent and children nodes, at least some of the parent nodes and their associated children nodes having IDs that are unique for the associated node;

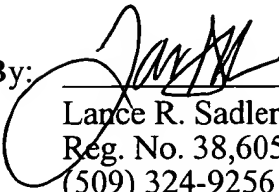
1 linking at least one of the multiple nodes to a node of another tree structure
2 having a context and multiple nodes that represent physical and/or logical entities,
3 individual nodes having unique IDs that can serve as a basis by which attributes
4 can be assigned to goods or services,

5 the tree structures being configured for traversal in a manner that enables
6 context to be derived from one or more of the nodes.
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Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 2/27/03

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